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3900 West Avera Drive
Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57108-5721
(605) 322-4700
Fax: (605) 322-4799
www.avera.org

June 11, 2007

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: WC Docket No. 02-60, Rural Health Care Pilot Program

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Please add the attached letters of support from Senator Grassly, Representative Herseth Sandlin, and the South Dakota Health Care Commission to our Rural Health Care Pilot Program application entitled Heartland Unified Broadband Network (HUBNet).

If you have any questions I can be reached at 605-322-4722 or jason.wulf@avera.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jason C. Wulf".

Jason C. Wulf
Avera Health

REPLY TO:

135 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1501
1202/ 224-3744
TTY: (202) 224-4479
e-mail: chuck_grassley@grassley.senate.gov

721 FEDERAL BUILDING
210 WALNUT STREET
DES MOINES, IA 50309-2140
(515) 288-1145

206 FEDERAL BUILDING
101 1st STREET SE
CHICAGO RAPIDS, IA 52401-1277
(319) 363-6832

United States Senate

CHARLES E. GRASSLEY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1501

May 2, 2007

REPLY TO:

103 FEDERAL COURTHOUSE BUILDING
320 6TH STREET
SIOUX CITY, IA 51101-1244
(712) 233-1860

210 WATERLOO BUILDING
531 COMMERCIAL STREET
WATERLOO, IA 50701-5497
(319) 232-6657

131 WEST 3RD STREET
SUITE 18C
DAVENPORT, IA 52801-1419
(563) 322-4331

307 FEDERAL BUILDING
8 SOUTH 4TH STREET
COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA 51501-4204
(712) 322-7103

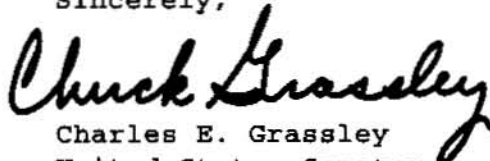
Mr. Jim Veline
Senior Vice President and CIO
Avera Health
3900 West Avera Drive
Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57108

Dear Mr. Veline:

I have contacted the Federal Communications Commission expressing my support for your Rural Health Care Support Mechanism Pilot Program application and asked that it be given all due consideration. When I receive a response from the Federal Communications Commission, I will relay the necessary information to you.

Thank you for allowing me to be of assistance to you. If you have any further questions regarding this, or any other federal matter, please do not hesitate to contact me again.

Sincerely,


Charles E. Grassley
United States Senator

CEG/sk

RANKING MEMBER,
FINANCE

Committee Assignments:

BUDGET
JUDICIARY
AGRICULTURE

CO-CHAIRMAN,
INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS
CONTROL CAUCUS

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN
AT LARGE, SOUTH DAKOTA

WASHINGTON, DC
231 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
PHONE (202) 225-2801
FAX (202) 225-5823

www.house.gov/hersethsandlin



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

May 8, 2007

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSERVATION, CREDIT,
ENERGY, AND RESEARCH
SUBCOMMITTEE ON GENERAL FARM COMMODITIES
AND RISK MANAGEMENT

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY, CHAIR

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS,
FORESTS, AND PUBLIC LANDS

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ENERGY
INDEPENDENCE AND GLOBAL WARMING

Honorable Kevin J. Martin
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Rural Health Care Pilot Program, W.C. Docket No. 02-60

Dear Chairman Martin:

I am writing to offer my support for Avera Health and the proposed Heartland Unified Broadband Network's goal of building a state-wide broadband network. I also support their application to your agency's Rural Health Care Pilot Project. This project will truly support South Dakota's rural health care organizations.

The project, would join together three of South Dakota's leading healthcare providers, linking urban medical centers to our rural healthcare facilities. The three major healthcare systems that would comprise the network include Avera Health (representing eastern South Dakota), Regional Health (representing western South Dakota), and Dakota Network (maintaining clinics throughout the state). The systems' locations allow the network to adequately serve rural facilities across the entire state of South Dakota. The funds dedicated to the project will provide much needed connectivity for hospitals and clinics hundreds of miles apart. This will lay the foundation for extensive telehealth and data sharing activities.

If implemented, HUBNet would forever change the practice of medicine in South Dakota. First, it would expand the breadth of telehealth programs available to rural facilities. It would also provide the foundation for an interoperable electronic health record that includes the majority of South Dakotans. Finally, it would support disaster preparedness and crisis response.

SIoux FALLS, SD
326 E. BIRD ST., Suite 108
SIoux FALLS, SD 57103
PHONE (605) 367-8371
FAX (605) 367-8373

RAPID CITY, SD
1823 W. MAIN ST.
RAPID CITY, SD 57702
PHONE (605) 394-5290
FAX (605) 394-5282

ABERDEEN, SD
13 SECOND AVE., SE, Suite 102
ABERDEEN, SD 57401
PHONE (605) 626-3440
FAX (605) 626-3441

I look forward to following the progress of this exciting project. It is my sincere hope that the Federal Communication's Commission will fund this project and benefit the thousands of rural residents living in South Dakota. Please keep my office informed of the application status. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Stephanie Herseth Sandlin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Stephanie" being the most prominent.

Stephanie Herseth Sandlin
Member of Congress

SHS/sdd

CC: Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Jonathon S. Adelstein
Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell



Working for Life

401 West Glynn Drive
Parkston, SD 57366-9606
St. Benedict Hospital 605-928-3311
Bormann Manor 605-928-3384
St. Benedict Assisted Living 605-928-3561
Wellness Center 605-928-4410

Working for Life

April 15, 2007

Jim Veline
Senior Vice President/CIO
Avera Health
3900 W. Avera Drive
Sioux Falls, SD 57108

Subject: Rural Health Care Pilot Program

Dear Jim:

The South Dakota Health Care Commission is happy to extend its support to the Heartland Unified Broadband Network (HUBNet) project, proposed through Avera Health's application to the Rural Health Care Support Mechanism Pilot Program. Of particular interest to our Commission are the sections of the project which address electronic health records and access to healthcare. We feel that this project would significantly enhance the practice of medicine and provide South Dakota's rural and frontier healthcare facilities the resources they so desperately need.

The HUBNet project seeks to provide interconnectivity to rural and urban healthcare facilities across the region by first linking the following organizations: Avera Health, Regional Health, and the Dakota Network. The combined service area of these three project partners spans South Dakota, parts of North Dakota, Wyoming, Iowa, Minnesota, and Nebraska. These partners have served as leaders in the implementation of technological advancements across the region and are once again at the forefront of this exciting change. By increasing connectivity between the rural healthcare facilities, we are confident that important healthcare resources will be improved. One important development is ability to create a master patient index, which will allow doctors to improve communication and increase efficiency of care. Another important aspect of the project is the increased access to telemedicine for rural facilities. By expanding bandwidth capacity, rural facilities will be able to provide a wider range of services, thus improving the local healthcare options for their patients.

Increasing the interconnectivity of regional facilities is very important to South Dakota. Again, the Commission is eager to extend its support and excited to see this project take flight.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gale Walker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and "W".

Gale Walker
Chairman, South Dakota Health Care Commission

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